



CALPEEK

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CA BUDGET WARS: HEROES, LOSERS & VILLAINS.

Editor's note: CA's longest budget deadlock is now over after 64 days, but the political fallout won't really be known until election day on Nov. 3rd. So for what it's worth, here is CALPEEK's 1992 list of Budget HEROES, LOSERS & VILLAINS...

- **WINNERS - NONE**, but the budget knife was spared on PRISONS and K-12 education for THIS year...

- **GOV. WILL POWER** - Opinions vary about Gov. Pete Wilson. He's a HERO to some, but the ULTIMATE VILLAIN to others. However, consider this: according to many news accounts, MOST of what Wilson won from Demos on Sept. 1 had already been agreed to back on July 1. The ONLY thing missing from the deal was the \$1 billion school revenue cut, with the loan-back, which keeps K-12 education on even ground with higher enrollments. What's so incredible here is that Assembly Speaker Willie Brown suggested a similar plan on school funding in June...

- **LOSER - Calif. BONDS**. Will the AAA rating ever return??? Doubtful...

- **DUMBEST VETO** - Wilson's veto of \$12 million of special funds earmarked for the investigation and crackdown on all forms of INSURANCE FRAUD. Included in the cuts were funds to aid local DAs combat WORKERS' COMP fraud. The funds Gov. Pete vetoed can't be used for anything else and his own commission recommended that MORE MONEY be put into the fight against WC fraud. The consensus is that this veto doesn't make sense...

- **PLAYING POLITICS AWARD** - Again, Gov. Pete is the winner. Many CALPEEK sources think the governor's refusal to end the budget crisis in early July was part of a well calculated plan aimed at making the Legislature look bad — which it did. The reason:

Wilson hopes that voters will remember the long delay on election day and vote FOR his Prop. 165, which cuts welfare even DEEPER and give the governor more power when the State is locked in a budget crisis...

- **GOLD STAR AWARD** - To Demo Controller Gray Davis, who way back in June urged the governor to borrow \$4 billion to pay bills in case of a deadlock — so the State would not have to issue IOUs. Wilson refused. Davis also won a major court battle to keep money flowing to CA's IHSS workers who help the poor and disabled. Earlier, CALPEEK awarded GOLD STARS to State Sen. Frank Hill (R) and Assemblyman Phil Isenberg(D) for their efforts to bust the budget impasse...

- **MOST PASSIONATE SPEAKER AWARD** - For zeal and fire, the winner is Demo Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Fremont, chair of assembly education committee...

- **WILSON BASHING AWARD** - CALPEEK has a tie for the Blue Ribbon: To Assemblyman John Burton(D) who called Gov. Wilson a "pip-squeak" for his refusal to cut the budget for the executive branch of government; and to Assemblyman Ross Johnson(R), who said of Wilson during a debate on the same subject, "He's not tough. He's just mean." Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '92: UPDATE ON KEY NOV. 3 RACES.

Editor's note: This week CALPEEK focuses on CA STATE SENATE races, plus a new poll in the 36th C.D...

- **39th S.D.** - This is the San Diego Co. district that now belongs to incumbent Sen. Lucy Killea, the Demo turned independent. Her GOP challenger is Jim Ellis, a former state senator who represented this district from 1980-88. Of all the incumbents who

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face reelection this year, Killea is the most VULNERABLE. The 39th S.D. has a GOP registration edge - 44.38% vs. 38.91 Demo. But Killea is an INDEPENDENT and in the 39th, 16% of the voters are independent -- the largest percentage of indy voters State-wide...

...Killea's COS, Craig Reynolds, has taken a leave of absence to run the campaign, with Katherine Hill doing the daily coordination. GOP consultants Jim Nygren and David Plag are running Ellis' campaign...

...As for issues, two topics have emerged so far: CHOICE and the ENVIRONMENT. And in both cases, sources believe Killea may have an edge. Killea is anti-abortion, but PRO-Choice, while Ellis is a strong PRO-Life candidate. Past surveys have shown the San Diego area to be about 70% PRO-Choice. The conflict over abortion was a key issue in 1989 when Killea won this seat in a special over GOP Assemblywoman Carol Bentley. The special got national coverage when the late Bishop Leo Maher told Killea that she could no longer receive communion because of her PRO-Choice views. The other hot issue is the ENVIRONMENT. Killea has an excellent voting record in support of environmental bills, while in 1981, Ellis was the author of SB 261, a bill to repeal the coastal act. Will Killea remind San Diego voters about this? Bet the farm...

...Bottomline: This contest is a top priority for the GOP Senate Caucus and they feel they may have a winner in Ellis. An imbalance of contributions will hurt Killea, but her stand on issues may act as a counter. If Killea gets the MONEY, she could win the election. But for now, it's a toss up...

- 19th S.D. - This is the OPEN Ventura - L.A. Co. seat which belongs to retiring State Sen. Ed Davis(R). Davis arch-enemy, Assemblywoman Cathie Wright(R-Simi Valley), won a hard-fought GOP primary and is now the favorite to win the general against Demo attorney Henry Starr. This race is on CALPEEK's "watch list" because there are PRO-Choice GOP voters who don't like Wright and may cross over. Registration is 47.20% GOP vs. 40.19% Demo, but Demo registration in Ventura Co. is on the rise. Starr has hired Skelton, Grover & Assoc. as his consultants, with Fairbank, Maullin & Assoc. handling polling. Yes, Starr has money,

but he'll need help from the Demo Caucus if he is to pull an upset. Huckaby, Rodriguez & Gilliard are once again doing the Wright campaign. Bottomline: Cathie's daughter got caught speeding again, but that isn't an issue. Wright ought to win this race...

- 17th S.D. - State Sen. Don Rogers(R-Bakersfield) ought to win this new district without much trouble. HOWEVER, 3 things stand in his way: 80% of this Kern/L.A./San Berdu/Inyo Co. turf is new to Rogers; he owes back taxes to the IRS (he's now under bankruptcy protection); and William Olenick(D) is talking tough. But in politics, it's MONEY that talks and Olenick refused to tell CALPEEK what his projected budget was. Bottomline: Rogers, despite all the negative publicity about his personal financial problems, should win because the 17th S.D. has a strong 51.01% GOP registration base. But CALPEEK will put this race on our watch list -- for now...

- 15th S.D. - This is the Santa Cruz Co. district now represented by State Sen. Henry Mello(D). Mello's opponent, Santa Clara Co. Deputy Sheriff Edward Laverone, is a longshot, but he won the endorsement of PORAC. If Laverone gets some help with fundraising, he could give Mello some trouble because Mello is not all that popular with the newspapers from the area, who endorsed his Demo primary opponent. For this reason, CALPEEK has put the 15th S.D. on our watch list...

- 7th S.D. - This is the Contra Costa Co. turf of Demo State Sen. Dan Boatwright. CALPEEK doesn't anticipate a Boatwright loss, but Goper Gil Marguth Jr. has hired Huckaby, Rodriguez & Gilliard and that means Marguth must have some resources. The registration is 45.37% Demo vs. 41.52% GOP, meaning it probably tilts Republican. HOWEVER, Boatwright is well liked and in the past has attracted GOP cross over voters. Bottomline: the race is on CALPEEK's watch list, but Boatwright is considered a favorite to win...

- 36th C.D. - A NEW poll has been released by the campaign of L.A. Councilwoman Joan Flores(R). It shows Flores with 37%, followed by her chief Demo opponent Jane Harman at 19.5%. Undecided accounts for 30.5%, with Green Party candidate Richard

Greene at 8%. P&F and Libertarian candidates account for 5%. The poll was taken by Arnold Steinberg & Assoc., Aug. 25-28, 500 sample (4.5% margin of error)...

LOCAL ELECTIONS '92: CITY-COUNTY ROUNDUP.

Editor's note: Here is a brief report on some CITY and COUNTY elections...

- SAN DIEGO MAYOR'S RACE - A new poll taken Sept. 1-2 of 402 voters commissioned by the San Diego Daily Transcript shows UC Irvine Prof./managed growth advocate Peter Navarro holding a 41% to 31.1% lead over San Diego Co. Sup. Susan Golding. 26.1% were undecided and fewer than 2% were planning to vote for write-in candidates. The poll was conducted by Competitive Edge Research & Communications. The poll has a margin of error of 4.9%...

- S.F. COUNTY SUPES - The race is on for 6 seats on the Board of Supervisors, with 5 incumbents and 21 challengers in the battle. Of the 5 incumbent, most sources rate Tom Hsieh, with consultant Clint Reilly running the campaign, as a slam dunk for another term. Terence Hallinan, with consultants Terris & Jaye in charge, is also rated highly, but his fundraising needs a boost. Sup. Angela Alioto, with consultant Jack Davis, is also rated as a slam dunk winner. But question marks surround incumbents Jim Gonzalez and Willie Kennedy...

...Of the non-incumbents, CALPEEK can't remember a time when there was such a strong field. There's KCBS Radio consumer advocate Barbara Kaufman, with consultant John Whitehurst; gay/AIDS activist Cleve Jones, with consultant Dick Pabich; former Sup./Sheriff/Assessor/PD chief Richard Hongisto; and Sue Bierman, who seems to be everyone's favorite planning commissioner. Bierman doesn't have a consultant, but does have a large volunteer staff, plus KEY endorsements from Art Agnos, Nancy Walker and even Dianne Feinstein. DiFi also has endorsed Kaufman...

...In terms of MONEY, it's Kaufman who is out front with \$216,000 (including a loan for \$25-Gs). Hsieh led the incumbents with about \$87,000. As of now CALPEEK sources think the 6 winners will be Hsieh, Alioto, Hallinan and Bierman, with Jones, Kaufman, Kennedy and Gonzalez fighting for the remaining two spots. Hongisto, in the opin-

ion of some CALPEEK sources, has burned too many bridges...

- L.A. CO. SUPES - Word on the street among insiders is that 4th District incumbent Sup. Deane Dana will have his hands full with challenger Gordana Swanson, an RTD board member and Rolling Hills councilwoman. In fact, some insiders have suggested that a UPSET could happen if Swanson is able to be competitive with Dana in terms of MONEY. Last week Swanson picked up the endorsement of former Sup. James Hayes, who represented the 4th District from 1972-79. His name is important to older voters, but probably doesn't mean much to new residents. Hayes was highly regarded when he served...

...The Dana campaign team has added Sue Hutchinson to oversee the field operations and volunteer activities. The ground ops will be important because in the primary Dana FAILED to win a majority of votes in any of the 26 communities or the unincorporated territory. Dana's best marks were scored in Cerritos, Downey and Palos Verdes Estates — areas where he got 48% of the vote. FYI: Dana's campaign also retained the services of Johnston Herbst to provide media support services. Stay tuned...

PROP. 165: NEW SURVEY SHOWS "YES" AHEAD.

A poll commissioned by the CA Republican Party FOR Prop. 165, Gov. Pete Wilson's welfare & budget reform initiative, shows the YES side ahead on two similar questions asked of 800 registered voters. On the 1st question, those surveyed were read the language from ballot label - that short description of the measure which appears on the ballot. The response was 48% YES, 36% NO and the rest undecided. On a similar question, BUT with short PRO and CON descriptions, YES got 49% and NO got 38%. The survey was conducted by Voter/Consumer Research, Aug. 1-3. It's not conclusive, but the YES on 165 campaign is happy...

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.

Here is some helpful information about CALPEEK that you may need to know. DEADLINES for news and Marketplace Network are 12 noon each Wednesday. CALPEEK is printed and mailed each Thursday. Our FAX phone is (310)657-4340. CALPEEK does not make refunds on cancellations...

PROP. 166: CMA IS NOW IN A CAMPAIGN MODE.

During most of the summer, the CA Medical Assn. (CMA) spent its time lobbying for passage of SB 248, a comprehensive health care bill. Had SB 248 won legislative approval, the CMA would have dropped its initiative, Prop. 166. But that didn't happen and so now the CMA is gearing up for a full blown campaign to win passage of its plan to provide health care coverage to 4.5 million uninsured workers. Steve Thompson, CMA's vp of govt. relations (who was once Assembly Speaker Willie Brown's top aide), will manage the campaign, while Danielle Walters will be the initiative's official spokesperson. At this point, CMA has NOT hired an outside TV/media consultant — and may not. CMA has very capable in-house people who produce TV and radio PSAs and ads. CMA has hired Charlton Research of S.F. for some polling. Although exact figures were NOT released, sources say the polling shows voters FAVOR the CMA initiative by a 2-to-1 margin, with undecided in the 10% range...

...FYI: NO on 166, which is divided into at least 3 different and active coalitions, is on TV. The Consumer Health Insurance Coalition (CHIC) has launched a heavy TV buy in L.A., Sacto and S.F. using a 30-sec. ad which ends with a very clever tag line: "It's bad medicine for Calif.". Why is CHIC on TV so early? The polling data by CMA is probably right on target and the NO side needs to knock down those numbers — and quickly. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are some political items of interest...

- **DEBATE UPDATE** - In last week's issue of CALPEEK we said Demo U.S. Senate candidate Dianne Feinstein was dragging her heels on debates. No more. DiFi and appointed U.S. Sen. John Seymour (R) have agreed to 3 debates: Oct. 3 in Sacto, hosted by the CA Broadcasters Assn.; Oct. 11 in S.F., hosted by the S.F. Chronicle and the Commonwealth Club; and Oct. 19 in L.A., hosted by radio stations KABC, KKGQ and KSDO. Is Seymour satisfied? NO. He wants more debates...

- **FULL METAL JACKET** - In the ongoing war over tougher GUN laws, a NEW player emerged during the 1992 session in Sacto: the American Shooting Sports Coalition (ASSC). Under ASSC lobbyist Bob Ricker, the coalition

made its mark by linking up with peace officer groups to defeat legislation to cap fees that the CA Dept. of Justice charges to gun dealers for BACKGROUND checks on new buyers. The DOJ was opposed to this bill, which was backed by the NRA. What happens if you cap the fees? It could double the waiting period for the background check...

- **NEW SLATE CARDS** - Two NEW slate cards are now on the scene. CARAL-PAC will mail one of the slates to a list of PRO-Choice Demo, GOP and indy voters (only CARAL endorsed candidates can be on this slate); for info contact Statewide Information Systems (916)387-6790. The CA Council of Police & Sheriffs will sponsor a "Voters Guide," with an aim for 3-million high propensity voters; contact Dan Wooldridge at Campaign Mgt. Inc. (714)755-3555...

- **A BRIEF CLARIFICATION** - Last week CALPEEK ran an update on Prop. 164, where we IDed Braun Ketchum as the NO on 164 campaign consultants. No problem there, but in that story CALPEEK noted that Braun was the manager of the NO on 41 campaign in 1984. Braun managed an outreach program in the NO on 41 campaign for the CA Hospital Assn., while consultant David Townsend was the overall NO on 41 campaign manager and Hal Larson did the TV spots...

- **READING FILE** - Health Access, the S.F. based consumer coalition, has issued its "You Can Run But You Can't Hide" chart on the HEALTH REFORM positions of candidates running for office — from the White House to the CA State Assembly. You'd be surprised at the number of Demo and GOP candidates who did NOT respond to this group's request for info. Health Access (415)431-3430. Stay tuned...

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